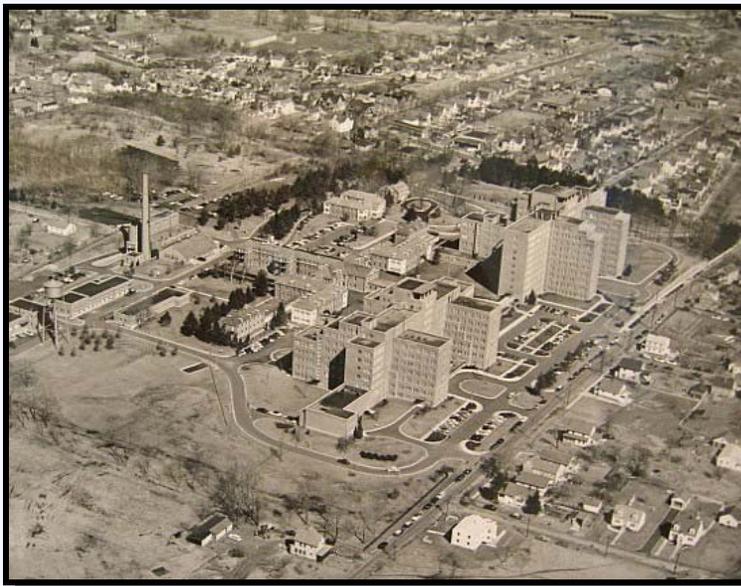


West Haven Campus To Celebrate 50th Anniversary

Although it has a history dating back to 1918 when it was dedicated as a new tuberculosis hospital, it wasn't until 1948 when the government purchased the property that the modern history of Veterans Administration Hospital, West Haven began. The purchase enabled the construction of a new hospital for veterans. The new U.S. Veterans Hospital in West Haven was formally dedicated September 13, 1953.

The next issue of Spirit Online will feature many vintage photographs from those early years. Please join us this month in celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the West Haven campus.



Aerial view of the West Haven campus in 1956. Building 2 in the foreground was a 400 bed tuberculosis unit. Building 1 was a general medicine and surgical unit. Much of the surrounding neighborhood is undeveloped.

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Future Events:

Employee Picnics
West Haven
Sept. 12
includes 50th Anniversary Celebration
Newington
Sept. 17

POW/MIA
Observance
Newington
Sept. 19

For more information on these and other events please see *Good Morning VA Connecticut*.

Director's Staff Meeting Awards - Aug. 18



*Left: Members of the CARES West Market Team **David Cornwall, Pamela Redmond and Karen Waghorn** worked with staff from the Northampton VAMC in developing and communicating to stakeholders the CARES planning initiatives for Connecticut and western Massachusetts. **Ed Kobylanski**, not pictured, was also recognized for his role as a member of the CARES West Market Team.*



***Ben Mobo, M.D., Mary Ann Chomiak, PA-C and Deborah Gordonner** were recognized for their work in accomplishing VA Connecticut's performance goal of completing Compensation and Pension exams in less than 30 days. Also receiving an award but not pictured were **Erica Coleman and Sheila Spruill**.*



***Tamar Lee**, audiology chief, accepts an award for her efforts as part of a team that reduced the time for Comp and Pen exams. Exams as of August were completed 18 days on average from the time of request.*



***Rose Cocchiaro, RN and Jill Edwards, APRN** were recognized for their work with the Comp & Pen program.*



The 2003 **Summer Student Volunteer Program** concluded Aug. 19 with a recognition picnic at the pavilion on the West Haven campus. More than 60 students volunteered for the program this summer contributing many appreciated hours of service to our veterans.

Yang Liu and Hayden Dumas received the 300-Hour Award. **Mary Falcone** received the Highest Award for serving the most hours.



“CARES” Hearing

A standing-room-only crowd attended the Aug. 25 VISN 1 CARES Hearing at the Wyndam Billerica Hotel in Billerica, Mass. Connecticut participants on the various panels included **Ricardo Randle**, director of the VA Regional Office in Hartford, **Ron Reynolds**, AFGE Local 1674 president, **Linda Schwartz**, State of Connecticut Veterans Affairs commissioner and **Karen Waghorn**, VA Connecticut associate director.

The CARES Commission will host public hearings throughout the country over the next several weeks to hear testimony from stakeholders on the National Draft CARES Plan.



Karen Waghorn, associate director of VA Connecticut and CARES West Market team leader, and George Poulin, VAMC Bedford associate director and CARES East Market team leader, testified as part of the VISN 1 network leadership panel.



Ron Reynolds, president of AFGE Local 1674 testified as part of the union panel.

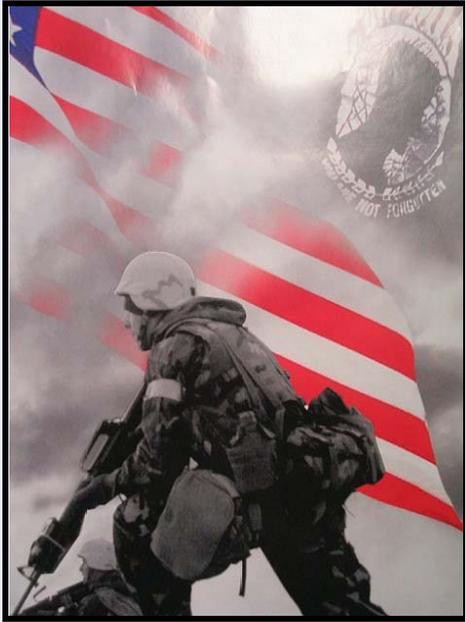


Ricardo Randle, director of the Regional Office Hartford, gave testimony in support of the VBA Hartford colocation to the Newington campus.



Women's Equality Day

Left: A lunch-time crowd gathers around an attractive Women's Equality Day display Aug. 26 in the rotunda at the West Haven campus.



- Don't Forget -
National POW/MIA
Recognition Day
September 19

VA Connecticut will host a Prisoner of war/Missing in Action observance on Friday, Sept. 19 at 11 a.m. in the ceremonial courtyard.

in the
NEWS

Robert Rosenheck, M.D., Director of the Northeast Program Evaluation Center, and **Michael Neale, Ph.D.**, NEPEC Project Director, were videotaped recently for a segment on "Case Management Models for SMI Veterans," an upcoming VA Employee Education System satellite program produced in conjunction with the Mental Health Strategic Healthcare Group.

John R. Mazzacane, Respiratory Care, has been named chairman of the Salvation Army's advisory board for Greater New Haven.

Joel Gelernter, M.D., Psychiatry, collaborated on a study that was published June 18 in *Neuropsychopharmacology*. The article is titled "A Functional Polymorphism of the Mu-Opioid Receptor Gene is Associated with Naltrexone Response in Alcohol-Dependent Patients."



Correction: *Purple Heart recipients John Del Monico (left) and William Harp (right) unveiled the U.S. Postal Service Purple Heart stamp during a ceremony Aug. 6. Del Monico and Harp were incorrectly identified in the Aug. 20 edition of Spirit Online.*

SPIRIT ONLINE

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